

MINUTES

**McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission
One Civic Center, 1st Floor Community Development Conference Rooms
7447 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251
Thursday, October 7, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman DeCabooter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., noting the presence of a quorum.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Art DeCabooter, Chairman
Christine Kovach, Vice-Chair
Carla
Erik Filsinger
Howard Myers
Arnold Roy
Don Ruff

Absent: Denny Carr
Laura Fisher
Virginia Korte
Solange Whitehead

Staff: Bob Cafarella
Claire Miller
Don Meserve

Visitors: Dan Gruber, Steward

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2004 MEETING

Commissioner Carla noted a correction on page two, paragraph two: Mr. Goodman discussed the maps for three new substations. Paragraph five: it would be a parcel of approximately 20 acres is proposed for the new larger substation and two and a half acres each for the two smaller stations. She also noted a correction to Commissioner Kovach's name on page 3. Motion by Commissioner Ruff, seconded by Commissioner Filsinger, to approve the September 2, 2004 minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

UPDATE/DISCUSSION: PROPOSED APS SERVICE FACILITIES IN NORTHEAST VALLEY

Carla advised the Commissioners that Mayor Manross would be meeting with APS representatives to determine whether or not some of the needs discussed at the September meeting could be met at existing APS facilities in Phoenix. She went on to add that many members of the Working Group felt that the numbers didn't add up and that the proposed service facilities may not need to be located in Scottsdale. Carla also reported that about five hundred residents, many of whom were angry about the APS proposal, attended the open house for the public.

DISCUSSION: DRAFT PROMOTION COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

Vice-Chair Kovach requested feedback from the Commissioners on the wording of the mission statement. She stated that the Promotion Committee was discussing tactics and methods for effective promotion of the Preserve. She noted that all ideas would be brought before the full Commission for review and approval.

Motion by Commissioner Ruff, seconded by Commissioner Roy, to approve the Promotion Committee Mission Statement as presented. Approved unanimously, 7-0.

DISCUSSION: EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PLANNED PRESERVE BOUNDARY

Mr. Meserve distributed a copy of the existing improvements. Mr. Cafarella noted that the document would be provided to the stewards, as they might have additional information to add. Mr. Meserve reviewed utilities and leases, and responded to Commissioner questions. Commissioner Carla suggested that, when a County antenna on Thompson Peak is repainted, it should be done using a more blended color. She also inquired as to the road to Thompson Peak being open for trail users.

Mr. Meserve went on to discuss the remainder of the improvements, including catchment basins, stock tanks, dikes, historic ranching, springs, mines and access roads. The Commissioners discussed these improvements. It was decided to add definitions to future lists of improvements, since terms like stock tanks and water troughs can be misunderstood.

UPDATE: STATUS OF STATE LAND REFORM

Carla reported that the reform is not dead, but is moving forward on three parallel tracks. She explained that Ed Fox and State Land Commissioner Winkelman are working on a track dedicated to drafting what she called "reform light." She also noted that two different conservation groups are discussing a citizen initiative for the 2006 ballot. Commissioner Carla stated that Commissioner Winkelman has assured the Mayor that as long as reform is being worked on by the State Land Department, they will not move on any land identified as conservation on the reform map.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cafarella announced that City Council had approved the design contract for the Lost Dog Wash access area. He suggested a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the preliminary design and use concepts. He went on to advise that the condemnation process was progressing well and that several settlements had gone to City Council for approval in recent months. Mr. Cafarella referred to the Scottsdale road capital improvement plans, and plans to purchase a two-acre Scenic Drive monument area between Happy Valley and Jomax Roads. He stated that the Land Commissioner is reluctant to sell the land at auction with a conservation easement at the appraised value for the Preserve, as has been done in the past. He noted that Mayor Manross is currently discussing the sale terms with the Land Commissioner.

Mr. Cafarella announced that progress was being made on the Sunrise Trailheads, but noted that October 30th Grand Opening might be unrealistic due to the time required to test different permeable materials for the road surface. He indicated that he would keep the Commissioners updated on the schedule for the opening of the trailhead.

PRESERVE MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Miller noted that work was continuing on McDowell Sonoran Month Activities, and distributed a flier for the Trail Ride & Hitching Post Installation Project on October 16th. She advised the Commission that the

stewards had a total of 7253 hours of work over the last year, up 2000 hours from the previous year. Ms. Miller stated that the Windgate Trail RFP is on the street, with the pre-bid meeting scheduled for Thursday. She noted that she had represented the city at the Public Lands Information day and made some good contacts. Ms. Miller concluded by noting that the Planning Committee was continuing its work, and anticipated presenting a recommendation to the Commission in the near future.

Commissioner Kovach inquired as to the capping and piping of the spring at Windgate Pass. Discussion ensued on the spring and Mr. Cafarella stated that more information on that issue would be forthcoming.

FUTURE EXECUTIVE SESSION

COMMISSIONER RUFF MOVED AND COMMISSIONER KOVACH SECONDED A MOTION TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2004, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL ADVICE TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING NEGOTIATING FOR PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR INCLUSION IN THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Carla encouraged the Commissioners to attend the October 17 Tour de Scottsdale event.

Dan Gruber, Preserve Steward, advised the Commission that the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust would be offering a new course for experienced Preserve Stewards who want to become hike leaders. He invited the Commissioners to attend any or all of the classes and distributed a flier with times and locations.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Commissioner Carla asked to discuss opening Thompson Peak and the trail. She suggested inviting a representative from the County to come and explain the County's position to the Commission. She also stated that the Planning Committee would present its recommendations regarding enforcement at either the November or December meeting.

Commissioner Myers asked for a discussion of design guidelines for structures in the Preserve.

Commissioner Filsinger stated that he would like to see the legal language giving the County access to Thompson Peak Road. Claire Miller will research the deed for the access road to the County antennas and contact the County on painting.

Mr. Cafarella suggested that Scott Hamilton attend the next meeting to review the Trails Master Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

"For the Record" Reporters